

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): A seeding machine as defined by claim 1 comprising:

a frame,

a main seed hopper mounted to the frame;

a plurality of planting units are independently mounted to the frame, each of the planting units comprises an auxiliary seed hopper, a seed meter for receiving and metering seed from the auxiliary hopper, and a furrow opener for forming a planting furrow into which seed is deposited from the seed meter;

a source of pneumatic pressure directs seed from the main seed hopper to the auxiliary hoppers through flexible hoses; and

wherein the auxiliary hopper has an open top that is enclosed by a removable lid.

Claim 3 (original): A seeding machine as defined by claim 2 wherein the opening is defined by opening edges in the sidewalls, the opening being upwardly open towards the removable lid.

Claim 4 (original): A seeding machine as defined by claim 3 wherein the removable screen has channel edges that engage the opening edges of the sidewalls.

Claim 5 (original): A seeding machine as defined by claim 4 wherein the removable screen is trapped in the opening by the removable lid engaging the auxiliary hopper.

Claim 6 (original): A seeding machine as defined by claim 5 wherein the removable screen is protected by an exterior wall that extends outward from the auxiliary hopper, the exterior wall defining an open bottom.

Claims 7 - 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): An auxiliary hopper ~~as defined by claim 8 for a~~ planting units of a seeding machine, the auxiliary hopper comprising:

sidewalls defining an interior for receiving seed, the sidewalls are provided with an opening;

an outlet seed passage extending from the interior to a seed meter;

a removable screen is removably mounted in the opening through which air can be vented;

wherein the auxiliary hopper is provided with a inlet seed passage through which seed passes into the interior; and

wherein the auxiliary hopper has an open top that is enclosed by a removable lid.

Claim 10 (original): An auxiliary hopper as defined by claim 9 wherein the opening is defined by opening edges in the sidewalls, the opening being upwardly open towards the removable lid.

Claim 11 (original): An auxiliary hopper as defined by claim 10 wherein the removable screen has channel edges that engage the opening edges of the sidewalls.

Claim 12 (original): An auxiliary hopper as defined by claim 11 wherein the removable screen is trapped in the opening by the removable lid engaging the auxiliary hopper.

Claim 13 (original): An auxiliary hopper as defined by claim 12 wherein the removable screen is protected by an exterior wall that extends outward from the auxiliary hopper the exterior wall defining an open bottom.

Claims 14 - 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): A planting unit ~~as defined by claim 15 for a~~ seeding machine, the planting unit comprising:

an auxiliary seed hopper having sidewalls defining an interior for receiving seed, the sidewalls are provided with an opening having a removable screen through which air can be vented;

a seed meter for receiving and metering seed from the auxiliary hopper; and

a furrow opener for forming a planting furrow into which seed is deposited from the seed meter;

wherein the auxiliary hopper is provided with a inlet seed passage through

which seed passes into the interior; and

wherein the auxiliary hopper has an open top that is enclosed by a removable lid.

Claim 17 (original): A planting unit as defined by claim 16 wherein the opening is defined by opening edges in the sidewalls, the opening being upwardly open towards the removable lid.

Claim 18 (original): A planting unit as defined by claim 17 wherein the removable screen has channel edges that engage the opening edges of the sidewalls.

Claim 19 (original): A planting unit as defined by claim 18 wherein the removable screen is trapped in the opening by the removable lid engaging the auxiliary hopper.

Claim 20 (original): A planting unit as defined by claim 19 wherein the removable screen is protected by an exterior wall that extends outward from the auxiliary hopper, the exterior wall defining an open bottom.